

# TOKEN TOPICS

January 1972  
Issue #35

of the  
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

ROBERT RITTERBAND  
Editor

**THIS MONTH:** The next meeting of local vecturists will be Sunday afternoon, January 16th, from 2:00 to 5:00, at the home of Elaine Willahan, 516 W. 99th St., Los Angeles. One of the most active collectors among us, Elaine is noted for her cordial hospitality, as well as offering us an excellent place to gather. (Several of our members have been generous enough to "volunteer" her home for every meeting!)

Your officers had hoped to have a film presentation available that day, to augment the customary swap sessions, but these plans have been necessarily delayed. Even so, you are assured an enjoyable afternoon of tokens and fellowship. Can you beat that?

**NEW YEAR:** The best to you, in 'Seventy-two. (Just don't forget that dues are due.)

Along with wishes to every member for good health and happiness in the days ahead, we remind you that now is the time to send your annual \$1.00 to Secretary Elaine. How can we continue to offer such a bargain? Probably we can't, but we DO!

This year the club will reach its fifteenth milestone, and our annual rate is still the same as in the beginning. What other item do you know that has remained constant for fifteen years? Actually the dues collection is only to sustain our postage expenses for these bulletins. (Letters, by the way, were still only 3c back in 1957.) Sooner or later our modest treasury will begin to run low, and then dues will have to increase a bit. Until then, however, your membership in the CATC is a bargain not even slightly approached by other hobby groups. So do let us hear from you promptly.

**LAST TIME:** Our final meeting of the past year was on Sunday afternoon, November 21st, at the Ritterband home. Fourteen members were on hand, plus enough family guests to bring the total turnout to twenty. Token collectors were: Roland Atwood, John Barnes, Robert Carter, Andrew Crusen, William Gallagher, Leslie Hawthorne, Robert Kubach, James Manning, Robert Ritterband, Kenneth Smith, Paul Thompson, George Ticknor, Ray Weamer, and Elaine Willahan. In addition to many token transactions, much time was given to discussions of club plans and betterment for the ensuing year. Election of possible new officers was carried over until January, in hope of an even larger turnout of members to participate in the balloting.

**CUTLER COLLECTIONS:** As promised in our last bulletin, much printed material donated to the club by veteran member Edward Cutler was offered for sale at the November gathering. A fair amount of it was bid in by our collectors, with all proceeds donated to club funds. More merchandise was later sold privately by President Ritterband. Still available are several early Atwood Catalogues, fourteen years of "The Fare Box", and a large batch of unused local LAMTA transfers of the late 1950's. At our coming meeting you will have one more chance to acquire some of these items, before the remainders are offered to other hobbyists through a "Fare Box" ad. If you are specially interested in any of the items, but cannot get to the meeting, send word to any officer, and we will do our best to make arrangements for you.

Incidentally, Eddie's many friends will be pleased to have his new address: 2929 West 190th Street, Redondo Beach 90278. This is not, as previously listed, in Orange County.



RAIL FANS: Streetcar enthusiasts of the Los Angeles area will relish a new pictorial booklet on that subject, just published by the Historical Society of Southern California. "On the Rails of Los Angeles", by Robert G. Cowan, is subtitled "A pictorial history of its street-cars", and it is truly that.

The volume runs to 48 pages, with probably ninety percent of the space devoted to an excellent collection of fully identified pictures. A great majority of the views are dated before the turn of the century, and they include horse cars, cable cars, and trolleys. The emphasis is on "LARY" and its twenty-odd predecessors, though "PERY" seems specifically omitted. By happy coincidence, the first full-page picture in the booklet shows two cars of the Spring & Sixth St. R.R. Co., issuers of the rare California transportation token #450-A.

The work is available in two editions-- paper bound at \$2.75 or hard cover at \$6.50, both plus sales tax and delivery. The Historical Society's headquarters are located at "El Alisal", the state historical monument encompassing the aged Charles Lummis home, at 200 E. Avenue 43, Los Angeles 90031. Mr. Lummis was a former editor of the L.A. Times, chief of our Public Library, founder of the Southwest Museum, and a famed author. He built the large home of stones, almost single-handed, and it is well worth a visit should you decide to purchase your booklet direct. Open hours are each afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00, except Saturdays and holidays. All hobbyists are certain to enjoy this landmark and the Society's publications.

"Dues are due" ..... and we do mean you!

FANTASIES AND SUCH: Shortly after the last issue of "Token Topics" was distributed we received a letter from one of our Northern California members, offering some critical remarks on our bulletin contents. A few of the suggestions he made were to include token articles, new issues, members' ads, and so on. If ever we expand to such a scope, we will have to (a) compete with the national "Fare Box", and (b) triple or quadruple our dues to pay the costs of another multi-page hobby journal.

One criticism in particular the gentleman made was that we had failed to alert our members to "the fake and fantasy tokens originating in Orange, California". We must plead guilty, because at the time and for weeks afterwards we had no idea what he was referring to. By now we have learned a little on the subject, and want to pass it along to fellow collectors for whatever value it has.

Apparently the firm which a couple of years ago purchased all the obsolete stamping dies of the bankrupt Los Angeles Statmp & Stationery Co. decided to give a workout to some of the dies. They selected 3500 different ones, and made up several dozen sets of uniface stampings in aluminum. These were offered to various token collectors as souvenir samples, with an initial price of \$250 per set. Later the price was reduced to \$150 per set. (Maybe because they weren't selling well???) We were unable to learn how many of the sets were actually sold.

How would one define these tokens? They are hardly fakes, because of being made from original dies. The fantasy description doesn't apply because they do not pretend to be of any value as useable tokens. The fact that all are uniface would stop them from being called restrikes, unless we all adopt a new name such as "semi-restrikes". Maybe the best term for them would be "Die Trials", a term not at all new to us.

Well, there's the story. Decide from where you sit what YOU want to call them, or if you just want to forget the whole subject. At least it has provided your editor with a few lines of what we hope is interesting material for this issue of "Token Topics".



# TOKEN TOPICS

March 1972  
Issue #36

of the

ROBERT RITTERBAND  
Editor

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

**MARCH MEETING:** Our get-together this month will offer an added attraction. For the first time in CATC annals, we will present an outside program in addition to the regular swap session and collectors' social. The extra event is a 28-minute color film, "Of Art and Minting", to be shown for us by Mr. Ralph Mitchell, immediate past president of TAMS and western representative of The Franklin Mint.

Club members who have previewed this film report it to be an excellent presentation on the way tokens and medals are designed and manufactured. From the first artistic concept, right down to final packaging, this documentary tells everything. Whether you collect tokens only, or all kinds of exonumia, you'll not want to miss this show.

As usual, the meeting will be on the third Sunday afternoon, March 19, and once again at Elaine Willahan's home, 516 W. 99th Street, Los Angeles 90044. We will get started promptly at 2:00, with the film showing set for 4:00. Whether Elaine decides to serve her always-great refreshments before or after the film remains to be learned... in any case they are just one more reason YOU should be with us that day.

**IN JANUARY:** Our first meeting of the year, on January 16 at Elaine's home, was well attended and enjoyable as ever. Members present were: Roland Atwood, Robert Carter, Andrew Crusen, Leslie Hawthorne, Robert Kubach, Steve Lipshie, Edrick Miller, Robert Ritterband, Frank Roselinsky, Claire Smith, Gordon Smith, Ken Smith, George Ticknor, Paul Thompson and Elaine Willahan. Guests included Mr. and Mrs. Scoles (with the Gordon Smiths from Oceanside), Mrs. Ed Miller and daughter, and Mrs. Ken Smith and son.

The only matter of business during this session was a selection of officers for the current term. Re-elected were Ritterband, president; Willahan, secretary; and Crusen, treasurer. Paul Thompson is the club's new choice for vice-president, while Robert Kubach rounds out our five-man Board with another year as immediate past president.

**A LONG TIME AGO:** This summer our club will celebrate its fifteenth anniversary, coupled with its 93rd consecutive meeting. We have come a long way since that day in 1957 when Roland Atwood, Edward Cutler, Edrick Miller and Ken Smith became "the Founding Four". Surely the CATC is now one of the strongest of all regional clubs of vecturists, and our milestone is worthy of special observance. Your officers will welcome suggestions for a suitable celebration of this event. Can we count on hearing from you in the matter at our meeting this month?

**AVA BALLOTS:** On March 1, as these lines are being written, 365 ballots on the AVA by-law changes have already been received in the mail by President Bob. With today as the mailing deadline, others will probably be straggling in all week. On March 6 the counting will begin, to be handled by our own secretary and treasurer, Elaine and Andy. With such heavy balloting, and in the absence of any fixed opposition to the proposals, it seems likely now that the final score will favor adoption of the amendments. Inasmuch as the polling report will have to miss the current Fare Box deadline, members at our own meeting will probably be the first to learn how the two-year-term and appointive-curator ideas fared at the hands of the Vecturists.



**COLLECTOR'S GEM:** Recently your editor read a news article about some "silver dollars" honoring Los Angeles mayor Sam Yorty, an announced candidate in the U.S. presidential campaign. The accompanying picture showed that a bust of Mayor Sam was on the obverse, while the reverse had the wording, "For President of U.S.A. / 72" plus a wreath of stars. Frankly, Yorty is not this writer's choice for the national job. At the same time we dearly love all kinds of Californiana for our collection, so we phoned the election headquarters. "Glad to send you the medallion," said a girl on the phone, "if first you'll send us a \$500 contribution towards our campaign."

Should we take time to mention that this little gem is still missing from our holdings?

**DIRECT DELIVERY:** In our last Token Topics we described a new pictorial booklet on the early days of streetcars in Los Angeles. A copy of the news letter came into the hands of the author, Robert Cowan, who has expressed much interest in our club. If at all possible, he plans to attend the coming meeting, and we will ask him to bring a few copies of his book, in both soft binding and hard covers. The rail fans among us thus will have a chance to acquire their copy by direct delivery, and without any dependence upon that strange institution known as the U.S. mails.

**RESTRICKES:** A matter of growing concern to collectors everywhere is the increasing appearance of restricks, either as tokens, trade checks, medals or coins. Sometimes these are plainly labeled or otherwise so apparent that no one has to be deluded. Other times, however, such pieces can mean real headaches or heartaches.

One of the CATC members, Chriss Christiansen, of Cupertino, Calif., was recently named to head a committee in TAMS to study these reproductions and offer suggestions on how best to cope with them. Several other collector groups are pitching in to help him in this endeavor, by reporting any spurious or fantasy items as soon as they are found. No doubt our club members can also be of service in this project. If you have any questions contact Chriss direct, or else ask one of our officers to help present your information. Let's keep our hobbies on the good side, for the benefit of all.

**DID YOU EVER HEAR** about the time during the French Revolution when a gang of citizens captured a Royal Count. They demanded he tell where all the toll-road tokens were hidden. "Never!", said he, "I would sooner die than tell." So they hauled him off to the guillotine. Just as the knife started down he turned coward. "I'll tell, I'll tell," cried the Count. But it was too late to stop the machine and he lost his head. The secret went with him to the grave, and those tokens were lost forever.

Moral: Never hatchet your Counts before they "chicken".

**DUES AGAIN?** We shouldn't have to mention this, but it seems there are still a few good CATC members who haven't yet sent in that itchy-bitsy, teenie-weenie, insignificant payment of one buck to Secretary Elaine to cover their '72 dues. Gee, fellers, it's such a bargain, and so much less than almost any other token club asks. How can anyone resist? And how can anyone willingly skip the chance to receive this wonnerf'l, fun-tastic bulletin regularly? That's what it comes down to, you know. Folks either will send those final few dollar bills to help out on postage costs, or else we'll have to drop a certain few names from our mailing list. Last call!



# TOKEN TOPICS

May 1972  
Issue #37

of the  
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

ROBERT RITTERBAND  
Editor

**NEXT MEETING:** Our gathering for this month will be on Sunday afternoon, May 21st, from 2:00 to 4:30, and in a very familiar spot. For the third time in a row we will meet in the comfortable home of Elaine Willahan, 516 W. 99th St., Los Angeles. The president had hoped to offer some type of "outing" get together this time, but serious family problems left no time to make any arrangements. Our club is lucky indeed to have such a hospitable hostess, who seems to have taken seriously one member's comment a few months ago that "every meeting should be at Elaine's house". Of course we can hardly do that, but in the meantime why don't YOU show your appreciation of her offer by attending one more great session here?

**LAST TIME:** Our meeting in March at the Willahan home was every bit as good as we had expected. In addition to the usual excitement of token swapping, everyone enjoyed an excellent film presentation, sponsored for us by the Franklin Mint. This was a 25-minute color film, detailing every aspect of medal design and manufacture, and it was brought to us by Franklin's western rep, Ralph "Curly" Mitchell and his wife Ruth. On hand to savor this gathering and its entertainment were: Roland Atwood, John Barnes, Robert Carter, Andy Crusen, Bill Gallagher, Les Hawthorne, Robert Kubach, Steve Lipshie, James Manning, Edrick Miller, Robert Ritterband, Frank Roselinsky, Ken Smith, George Ticknor, Paul Thompson, Ray Weamer and Elaine Willahan. With four family guests there, plus the Mitchells, our total turnout was 23... as always!

**AND THEN!** Remember, please, that every nearby member has a date with us for Sunday afternoon, July 16th, to observe our club's fifteenth anniversary. Since this group was first organized, back in July 1957, we have come far and done much to improve the hobby of token collecting. It is fitting that we all celebrate the milestone properly, so just watch "Token Topics" for details. Any member having special thoughts on this subject is again invited to pass his ideas along to a CATC officer.

**NEW DISCOVERY:** This time it was Steve Lipshie's turn to enjoy the definite thrill of being the first vecturist to learn of a new token issue. And good guy that he is, everyone attending our coming meeting will have a chance to acquire one from him, almost before it is announced in The Fare Box.

From Steve, your editor learned these details: Eastern Cities Transit, which had been operating in the eastern suburbs of Los Angeles since the 1920's, was taken over by the So. Calif. Rapid Transit District on Sept. 1, 1971. Shortly before, the fare had been raised from 15c to 20c cash, though their tokens (Calif. 240-A) were still being sold at two for 25c. On Jan. 30, 1972, new tokens went on sale at the rate of six for a dollar, or rolls of 30 for \$5.00. Steve purchased a roll to share with all of us. Strangely enough, the old tokens are still being honored, and no deadline has been announced yet for their discontinuance.

Now here comes the oddest part of all. The "new" tokens are not the least bit new, but instead are 50,000 of the Pasadena City Lines "rose" issue (Calif. 630-G), with a shiny new plating of brass over the original white metal. We wonder how many future collectors are going to see these and feel certain they have some rare pattern from Pasadena, when the tokens aren't even useable in that city!



**WITH REGRETS:** Secretary Elaine has advised the club Board that seven good members are being removed from the active mailing list because of not having paid their \$1 dues for 1972. We sincerely hope that these folks (Ernie Altvater, Katherine Finnegan, Fred Glaze, George Gould, Robert Marvin, Harry Nicholls, and Clancy Riggs) will miss being able to read our club bulletins and will therefore let us soon restore their names again to CATC rolls.

One other member has tendered his resignation verbally and says that he plans before long to offer his entire collection for sale in a single lot. To avoid anything premature, and to give all an equal opportunity to bid on same, we will delay giving out the member's name until the next meeting. "Come on and hear!"

**THE TRAVELER:** One feature we cannot promise for the May gathering is the presence of everyone's "Number 1" Vecturist, Roland C. Atwood. Our happy traveler will be leaving town about the time this bulletin reaches you, for a seven-weeks tour of England and Norway. (No guarantees that this time he'll have another private audience with Queen Elizabeth!) He expects to be back home early in July, for the reasons that (a) he wouldn't miss the club's anniversary, and (b) he wouldn't have any travel dollars left. Don't worry, though, about this 76-year-old youngster, because for September he already has plans to take off in the opposite direction, namely to the South Seas and Australia. Happy landings, sir!

**GRAB BAGS:** Probably not many of our members receive the monthly sales bulltins of Superior Stamp & Coin Co., Los Angeles. Let us, therefore, tell you of a buy featured on the first page of their April issue. We quote, "From L.A. Parking Meters. Even if you have a vivid imagination you couldn't possibly guess the things that end up in parking meters. Foreign coins, OPA ration tokens, Civil War memorabilia, bus tokens, medals. In many cases the duplicity hardly makes sense, as the item put into the slot far exceeds the posted tariff. We bought this lot by the pound from our city, and that's the way we're going to dispose of it. Strictly unsorted."

The price was given for one-pound bags at \$3.95, or ten pounds for only \$25.00. This writer was allowed a chance to look over a few bags, and found the pieces to be mostly minor foreign coins. We saw only a few "garden variety" bus tokens, no medals, and surely not a single bit of Civil War memorabilia. Maybe your luck would be different, and they might still have some of this hoard on hand if you care to try a "grab".

**CABLE CARS:** Club members (and it would be mostly our out-of-state bunch) who were lucky enough to get to the AVA convention five years ago in Minneapolis had a rare treat in hearing an excellent talk by Prof. George Hilton of UCLA on his favorite subject, "The Cable Cars in America". Here is a man who has walked every inch of every line that ever operated in the U.S.A., in a total of twenty-eight cities.

Hilton has finally compiled an enormous book on the histories of these lines, along with nearly 700 illustrations. It carries the same title as above, and it is written with brilliance and good humor. Maybe this was an easy job for him, since Hilton knows more about this topic than all the rest of us put together.

The publisher is Howell-North Co., of Berkeley, Calif., and the price is a mere \$17.50. (No, we do not have a copy yet, but we have indeed started to save up our pennies. Or maybe Mama Claus will think of buying us a copy at Christmas time.)



# TOKEN TOPICS

July 1972  
Issue #38

ROBERT RITTERBAND  
Editor

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

**FIFTEEN YEARS:** This month our club celebrates its fifteenth anniversary, an event well worth noticing. For the occasion, we will gather at our annual picnic-in-the-park, returning this time to the popular Travel Town area of Griffith Park, between Los Angeles and Glendale-Burbank. The event will be on Sunday, July 16th, from 12:00 noon and until every picnic basket and token box is empty.

It's nearly four years since the CATC last met at Travel Town, and there have been many changes made. In addition to numerous new acquisitions, they now operate a round-trip streetcar ride, using two cars built in 1902 for the Los Angeles Railroad Company. The transportation museum is well filled now, while throughout the park at least fifteen locomotives are set for your inspection. Many other kinds of significant vehicles will also be found here.

Just EAST of the equipment displays is a large, grassy, shaded area, with plenty of picnic tables and unlimited parking. That's where you'll find the rest of our bunch. (Please don't confuse these tables with the ones near the refreshment stand and car tracks. Ours are much more enjoyable!)

Another feature for your pleasure is the superb layout of the L.A. Live Steam club, about a half-block further east from our picnic site. Here the train fans have installed nearly three-fourths of a mile in miniature trackage (1/8 gauge), where they give free train rides on tiny passenger equipment every Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00. Further into Griffith Park are the Zoo, the Planetarium, hiking trails, and so on.

It will be an afternoon that every member of your family will enjoy, including all token swappers. For further details, and to insure that you find the rest of us with ease and promptness, an illustrated folder of this fun spot is enclosed. See you there?

WE Bob Carter, Andy Crusen, Bill Gallagher, Leslie Hawthorne, Bob Kubach,  
MET Steve Lipshie, Jim Manning, Edrick Miller, Bob Ritterband, Claire Smith,  
IN Gordon Smith, Ken Smith, George Ticknor, Ray Weamer, Elaine Willahan ---  
MAY: plus five family-member guests.

This was the turnout for an enjoyable Tokens gathering at Elaine's comfortable home on Sunday afternoon, the 21st of May. Of course vectures and trade checks were swapped at a lively clip, and of course everyone shared the friendliness of the day.

Just count the number of names listed, with the guests, and you will note that once again our attendance totalled twenty. For several years there has seldom been any fewer collectors at a CATC meeting, and often the score is even higher. When you read of other regional token clubs that report turnouts of six or eight people most times, with an infrequent "huge" count of nearly twenty, you can see just how lucky our club is, to have such fine participation. If you really want token-trading action, you cannot afford to miss any meeting of the CATC.

**TIME ENOUGH:** Less than a month after our summer gathering, comes the annual conclave of the American Vecturist Association, this time in Chicago. The dates are August 11-13, and the locale is the Sheraton-Blackstone Hotel. Our chairman this year is Joel Reznick, who appears to be putting together a bang-up program for all. Maybe you have been thinking just a bit about attending this great meeting. So now think even harder, and send in your registration to Reznick. There is still time, you know, and you're sure to enjoy a wonderful convention and a wonderful vacation. Plenty of details in the recent "Fare Box" issues, so..... c'mon along!



MEDALLIONS?? Like many other token collectors, your editor is actively interested in acquiring medals also. Nothing elaborate, just as long as they are nice looking and not too expensive. You can imagine what a pleasure it was this week to find posters in several gas stations of Gulf Oil, announcing the distribution of new "state medallions". We stopped at once in such a station, and found their pieces to be attractive and definitely inexpensive (free, that is). The only thing we did NOT find them to be was medallions.

The items being given out are actually very neat Window Decals, about 3x4 inches in size. A different one has been designed around each state flag, plus the District of Columbia and the U.S.A. itself. Locally one can obtain either the California issue or the Stars and Stripes shield of the U.S.A. Collectors who want a full set of all 52 designs can order same by mail for \$2 postpaid, or any three selected states for only 35c.

Medallions... no! But good looking and carefully produced... yes! We can imagine many decorative usages for a set of these. See for yourself, soon.

WOODEN NICKELS: In the last bulletin we wrote about Steve Lipshie's recent discovery of a new Rapid Transit District token (Calif. 240-B), which he distributed to collectors at our May meeting. Steve is at it again, but this time with a previously unknown Transit District wooden nickel.

These pieces are not transportation tokens, nor even good for any fare discount. Instead they are given to riders when the District occasionally sponsors a promotional campaign in behalf of a community's merchants, to induce folks to use the bus when they go shopping. The literature for one such event shows that for a week in July 1970, in Huntington Park, the nickels were to be honored for certain retail discounts, prize drawings and other bonuses.

These nickels do not qualify for listing in the Atwood's supplement. However, they are a worthwhile "miscellaneous" addition to a collection of vectures, and Steve was thoughtful enough to get a couple of dozen samples for our members. These will be given first to those attending the picnic meeting this month. Our out-of-towners can obtain theirs readily by sending an SAE to either Prez Bob or Secy Elaine.

FUTURE EVENT: One of our good Northern Calif. members, Duane Feisel, will soon begin to publicize an event which is certain to be of great interest to every collector in the country. On the weekend of March 16-18, 1973, at the Hyatt House in San Jose, Feisel will sponsor as a private enterprise what he has dubbed the first National Tokens Jamboree. It will offer meetings, lectures, displays, dealers, an auction, and finally a banquet. Everything in the vast field of tokens and medals will be covered, though he reports that coins are specifically ruled out.

As a former president of AVA and its present curator, Duane has written that he hopes to host some kind of Vecturist meeting also. (He has been careful to select a date midway between our national conventions, to avoid any conflict there.) Any possible AVA gathering is a subject for the national Executive Board to consider. In the meantime you will note that our local club would ordinarily have its regular meeting that same weekend. Maybe our officers for '73 will deem it worthwhile to stage our March session in San Jose, jointly with members of the BATS from the Bay Area.

You'll be reading more about this conclave soon in the trade journals. Meanwhile, please give the matter some thought, and let our planners know how YOU react to all of this. And don't forget that you saw it first, as always, in the "Token Topics"!

IN THE CLOSER FUTURE is our September meeting, on Sunday afternoon the 17th. We have been invited once again to the garden home of the Edrick Millers, in Costa Mesa. NOW is the time to mark this pleasant date on your desk calendar.



# TOKEN TOPICS

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CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

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Issue #39

ROBERT RITTERBAND  
Editor

**NEXT MEETING:** Just for variety the CATC plans an "away from Los Angeles" meeting about once a year. So in September, on the afternoon of Sunday the 17th, we will gather again at the home of Edrick Miller, 3257 Idaho Lane, in Costa Mesa, from about 2:00 until 5:00. Last year we printed a map to show how close the place was to the San Diego Freeway crossing over Harbor Boulevard. Maybe you still have that chart or remember which turns to make. If not or if you need a ride, get in touch promptly with Secy Elaine or Prez Bob for details. And if you insist on getting lost, Ed's phone number is (714) 549-4379. See all of you there???

Maybe YOU are a reader who is wondering what this is all about, so an explanation is in order. Last year after the Seattle convention our club decided to mail its August-Sept. bulletin to every member of the A.V.A., in addition to our own list. The thought was that the "Fare Box" would not be issued again until the end of September, thus delaying awaited news of the conclave. The second page of that "Token Topics" gave a full report on Seattle, and it was received with much acclaim across the nation.

Well, we're doing it again this year, not in total detail but just enough of a story to spread the good news of Chicago. As before, full club thanks go to Elaine Willahan for her solid job of typing the necessary 600+ envelopes, and to the A.V.A. for picking up the postage costs beyond our own membership list. We hope that all you other collectors enjoy this gesture!

**OUR PICNIC:** A wonderful breezy afternoon out-of-doors was the setting for the 15th Anniversary celebration of the CATC on Sunday afternoon, July 16. A total of 28 persons gathered for this event, in the Travel Town section of Griffith Park, Los Angeles. It also marked our club's 93rd consecutive meeting.

Members present were: Roland Atwood, John Barnes, Bob Carter, Andy Crusen, Les Hawthorne, Bob Kubach, Jim Manning, Ed McClung, Bob Ritterband, Ken Smith, Paul Thompson, George Tichnor and Elaine Willahan. A number of wives and countless kids brought the turnout up to the usual high score for which this club has become noted.

The men swapped tokens, the ladies swapped recipes, and the children wore themselves out riding the live steam trains and clambering over the large array of ancient travel vehicles in this popular spot. Mrs. McClung made up for her husband's long-time absence from our gatherings, by preparing a large 15th Birthday cake for all. If you had to miss this one, better start planning now to be with us on our 20th!

**NEWEST BOOKLET:** In this week's mail it was a pleasant surprise to receive a new publication, "Salesmen's Samples of Transportation Tokens". This was printed in a limited edition of 200 copies by the Northeast Vecturist Association, with complimentary distribution to their membership.

About two-thirds of the booklet's sixteen pages are devoted to reprints of two "Fare Box" articles, by John Coffee and by Foster Pollack. One tells the long-time history of Scovill Manufacturing in the production of vectures, while the other describes Scovill's sampling practices on such items. Then comes five reprint pages of their advertisements, and finally a page of nicely mounted actual samples. These are like the samples Pollack had available when he visited our club from New York last summer.

This booklet would be a most attractive addition to any collector's library. And if previous practices are followed, non-NEVA members will probably be able to buy copies from any remainder supply at a reasonable price. For more info on this, contact the NEVA president, Ralph Hinde. (A real mystery to your editor is that he spent numerous pleasant hours at the Chicago convention with Hinde, a truly fine fellow, and never once was any hint dropped that this new print job was in the works. Yet we feel sure that Hinde had much to do with its preparation and distribution. Surprise!)



**THE BIG PARTY:** In my dual capacity as president of both the CATC and the AVA, it was a pleasure to attend the national convention in Chicago earlier this month. The weather was quite acceptable, the registration of 42 members was about 10% ahead of last year, and the fellowship was 100% for everyone! Chairman Joel Reznick and his associate, Grant Schmalgemeier, had worked long and hard on this event, and their results truly showed it.

A popular aspect of the gathering was the introduction of the new Emblem Decals, which some of our own members had seen in "sneak preview" at our July picnic. These are dark blue and white, in a 3" diameter, and will go great on windshields, luggage, hobby cases, den walls, etc. A free copy was given to every registrant, with extras sold at 20c each or five for \$1. Any other members not in Chicago can obtain theirs from the treasurer, Toby Frisbee, remembering of course to enclose an SAE with their order. Here's a warning though. They are too good looking for his stock to last very long!

A somewhat similar item available at the registration desk was a gold-color Name Badge, offered at \$1 each. The design suggests our emblem also, and they have a plastic window in the center for the insertion of a member's name. With just a bit of care one should be usable at Token meetings for many years to come. My copy will be on hand at our September session for all to examine. An announcement should appear soon in The Fare Box on the purchase of extra copies by other Vecturists.

My own newest Personal Token, of white lettering on red plastic and featuring that old-time streetcar, seemed to be the only such item generally distributed there. Others who collect these are invited to request (with their SAE) a sample of this issue from me while they last. Orders for your own Tokens using this same die can also be had.

Certainly the prize distribution piece of all was Chicago's special Tour Token, struck in a sterling silver proof by the famed Franklin Mint. These are 26-mm in size, and show the AVA emblem and convention date on the obverse, with some typical "one fare" info on the reverse. They are beauties and they are totally legitimate, as the conventioners learned on Sunday morning when all went by charter bus to the Illinois Railway Museum for streetcar rides. This museum is about 60 miles westerly from the Second City, about as far as the Orange Empire Trolley Museum is from our town. Their layout of 26 acres is somewhat larger than here at Perris, and their rolling stock of 110 pieces is also moderately more. The principal ride is a straightaway section of track, maybe 2½ miles long, which the Vecturists enjoyed with their tokens. The New Issues Service of AVA will distribute these tokens, with still others probably obtainable from Reznick. Watch your next Fare Box for details on these little gems.

The convention was not without its serious moments. For the first time in the organization's history, all seven members of the Executive Board were gathered into one spot, making possible some good deliberations for club betterment. With next year's convention scheduled at Denver, it was decided to extend until November 1 the deadline for invitations on '74 and '75. Minneapolis has bid on that first opening, with our own club tentively listed for the next after that. In the absence of any further requests, these two dates would be confirmable by the Board before this year closes.

We were told that the revised Feisel Parking Tokens Catalogue will be ready about the end of this year. It will have double the listings and the pages of the 1966 book, with nearly triple the illustrations. Another anticipated issue, under Coffee's direction, will be a printed supplement to the Atwood Catalogue, running to some 100 pages or so, and due next spring. A totally new book is not contemplated for quite a while.

Two "cleanup" by-law changes were proposed by Board members and strongly approved by the conventioners. Mazeau suggested lowering our "Junior" designation from 21 years to 18 years of age, in compliance with current federal and state laws. (At present our Roster lists seven such members.) Ritterband called for a change in nominating procedures, so that members must seek advance permission of their nominees before they submit such names to the secretary. A rather recent example was cited of fifteen names listed in the Fare Box, with the word "declined" next to most of them. A balloting on both of these proposed modifications will be presented soon to the entire membership.

The formal sessions of the convention culminated in a well-attended banquet, which included the showing of many slides on early transportation in the Chicago area. Our speaker also had supplied a 20-page booklet with such pictures, some routing maps, transfers and so on. Extras of each of these will be available for member's choosing at our coming CATC meeting. A final surprise of the evening was the presentation to John Coffee of a silver-plated, engraved railroad spike, to honor the 25th year of his famous bulletin. This idea was conceived by Mazeau, who had the work done on an old Pacific Electric spike from abandoned Santa Monica trackage, supplied by Yours Truly.

And that's the story until next year, when YOU should be on hand too!



# TOKEN TOPICS

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of the  
**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS**

**ROBERT RITTERBAND**  
Editor

**NEXT MEETING:** The final session for this year will be on Sunday afternoon, November 19th, from 1:30 to 4:30, at the Ritterband home in Los Angeles. The address is 6576 Colgate Avenue..... not far from Wilshire Boulevard and La Cienega, in case you haven't been there before. Please phone ahead (938-4504) if you need exact directions. After all, we do want you there with us!

Now that the entire nation has finished with its elections (and we hope that you liked at least some of the results), it is time for our club to go through the same routine. Our secretary and treasurer, Elaine and Andy, have stated that they would continue in office if asked, but the same is not true of the president-editor. By New Year's he will have served at the helm for six of the past ten years, and he is begging for another layoff.

This is the big chance YOU have been looking for! As one of our loyal members, be sure to speak up, and at least for 1973 take over this simple assignment of doing six bulletin announcements and conducting six brief business agendas. New officers will begin with the January meeting at the Willahan home, so they all should be selected at this time.

**IN SEPTEMBER:** Oh, it's always fair weather when good vecturists get together. And that was the case again on Sunday, September 17, when members of this club gathered for their annual "away from L.A." meeting, this time at the Costa Mesa home of Edrick and Pat Miller. We had wonderful weather for a very pleasant afternoon, with a total of 21 collectors and family guests on hand.

Members present included: Roland Atwood, John Barnes, Andy Crusen, Bill Gallagher, Bob Kubach, Jim Manning, Ed Miller, Bob Ritterband, Claire Smith, Gordon Smith, Ken Smith, George Ticknor, Elaine Willahan and Robert Wolf. Leon Geller of Philadelphia was welcomed by mail as a new member, though he could not be with us in person.

During a brief business session a number of letters were reported from collectors across the country who had enjoyed and appreciated our club's recent project of sending the Sept. "Token Topics" to everyone listed in the A.V.A. roster. This was intended to fill in the news gap until a post-convention "Fare Box" could be issued. Ritterband, our only local member able to journey to Chicago for the A.V.A. conclave in August, distributed souvenirs of that gathering and showed a number of color slides taken during the annual meet.

**LEFT-OVERS:** Just about enough space left on this page for a couple of thoughts from earlier events. For one, the October 11 issue of "Coin World", largest numismatic newspaper in the country, had a nice four-paragraph writeup on the CATC fifteenth anniversary picnic at Griffith Park in July. Better late than never, and it's a good item for anyone's scrapbook.

Number two left-over is that a collector item somehow went astray at the Millers' home in September. As mentioned above, the Prez distributed numerous souvenirs from Chicago, but one piece passed around was clearly stated to be for display only. However that item was not returned at the end of the meeting, because someone by accident picked it up with his own belongings. Please look for a brass restrike trade check from Columbia, Calif., mounted in a 4x6 cardboard frame, and please bring it back to the next meeting. Many thanks!



**HAPPY DAY:** One thing forever true about tokens is that they are wherever you find them. A gem might always be in the very next junk box you paw through. Our latest club member to have this happy experience is Andy Crusen. On a recent jaunt into Northern California, he found what appears to be a real discovery.

It was the standard setting once again. There Andy was, going through a little old heap of odds and ends in a little old antique shop. And at the bottom of the pile sat a piece with the inscription "Good for return trip to the depot". It was a depotel, all right, and possibly more scarce than ever for such rarities.

The obverse identifies the token as being issued by a certain livery stable in Idaho. The company was previously catalogued for the issuance of ordinary "Good fors", but not for any depotel. And the extra scarcity is in the fact that depotels were almost always known for midwestern rather than far west usage. All of this for just a two-bit purchase by Crusen.

No more details now until the piece has been authenticated by the A.V.A. Catalogue Committee. Watch your "Fare Box" for a complete story soon. With John Coffee having the most extensive collection in this specialty, he will likely give the final word on attributing Andy's new find.

**MARCH EVENT:** Looking ahead a few months, our regular meeting for next March would ordinarily be on Sunday afternoon, the 18th. Whether or not it will be held then, or shifted, will depend on a decision by our officers. Their choice will be guided by the preferences of our local membership.

Reason for a possible change is the big Token event to take place in San Jose that same weekend. Under the private sponsorship of Duane Feisel, past president of the A.V.A. and editor of the Parking Tokens catalogue, the first annual National Token, Medal and Exonumia Collectors Jamboree will be staged at the Hyatt House on March 16 to 18. There will be a dealer's bourse, a combined floor/mail auction, numerous displays, capable speakers, and meetings of the various Pacific Coast collectors' organizations. Registration for the three days will be \$15, which includes a fine buffet banquet and three trade tokens good for purchases from the bourse dealers.

Our CATC is one of the clubs invited to participate. Of course we could do this by sending exhibits, or even just by helping publicize the show, as these paragraphs are now doing. More than that, though, it has been suggested that we hold our regular meeting in San Jose on that Sunday, and make it a joint effort with the BATS group of Bay Area vecturists.

How does this latter idea strike you? There are both pros and cons to the plan. On one hand we would have a chance to get acquainted and swap tokens with a number of good collectors whome we now know only by name. On the other hand San Jose is about 350 miles from Los Angeles, and any local collectors unwilling or unable to make the trip would be done out of their meeting for that month. A somewhat similar idea in New York City last month by NEVA drew a turnout of only ten collectors.

If a joint session is to be set for San Jose, your officers will need time to make all the arrangements. The decision should be made either during or soon after our coming meeting. So it's all up to YOU! Please phone, write or personally tell one of our officers what your preference is, and we'll go on from there.

**CLUB DUES:** November is the time when we start collecting annual dues, to help out on bulletin and postage costs. So far it is still that same bargain of only one dollar. Better get yours soon to Elaine, before someone decides that we really should be collecting more by now.